

**TOWN OF ACTON**  
**SIDEWALK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Minutes of February 9, 2011**  
7:00 p.m.  
Acton Town Hall, Rm 121

There was no January meeting due to snow closures.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, March 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m. Acton Memorial Library Conference Room.

**Present:** Kate Chung, Sytske Campbell, Dana Snyder-Grant, Pam Cochrane, Dick Calandrella, Leslie Hogan, Bettina Abe, Steve Evans, and Pam Harting-Barrat, liaison from the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Pam needed to leave early, so her report was taken first:

1. South Acton Train Station (SATSAC) continues to move forward. Design is still being worked out. Funding for train station is still possible.
2. Pam met with Corey York, Town Manager Steve LeDoux and Taylor Road resident Bill Marathias who continues to pursue complaints about **truck traffic on Taylor road**. Their discussions include diverting trailer trucks onto Route 2 from Hosmer Street. Mr. Marathias' requests could incur increased fuel costs for trucks and legal fees from town counsel reviewing legality of traffic measures such as speed bumps, stop signs, etc. Mr. Marathias wants street snowplowing schedules and procedures adapted to his family's concerns about noise and disruption.
3. The Sidewalk Committee would like to know what is remaining in this year's **Sidewalk Fund** after the construction of sidewalks on Central, Prospect, and High Streets. Pam will send the report of spent and available funds, to the committee co-chairs, and/or the entire sidewalk committee. This report should include funds that we understood would come from town of Concord from the 40B housing project (Powdermill Road) that does have approval now. It was our understanding that there was a considerable sum of \$ agreed to for sidewalk construction and that it could be used for High St.

**Citizen Concerns:**

Sonja and Eric Heels joined us, as did Elizabeth Hughes, Boxborough Town Planner, **regarding a sidewalk along Route 111/Massachusetts Avenue connecting Boxborough and West Acton**. This proposed sidewalk would be in Boxborough, approximately 0.8 miles from the Sargent Memorial Library to the Acton town line, and in Acton approx. 0.4 miles from the Boxborough town line eastward to the existing W. Acton sidewalk that currently ends at Juniper Ridge Road.

- We had available **these documents** for review: Sidewalk Request from Sonja Heels.pdf, and MAGIC\_FFY\_2011-2014\_TIP\_Comment\_Letter\_042610.pdf.

-Route 111 is a state owned highway so our regional planning agency, MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) must be used to fund design and engineering through our division, MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination)

-Boxborough has \$18,000 for design, and if Acton contributes its town staff time to survey and engineering plans in tandem, this collaboration will improve chances and prioritization for construction funding which could be matched at 80% MAGIC and 20% local towns.

-Mass. Dept. of Transportation must approve construction and funding.

-There are three failing culverts in Boxborough and one in Acton on this stretch of road.

-Elizabeth Hughes wants to formalize a proposal this calendar year.

Sidewalk Committee decisions:

-We will consult with Corey York in Engineering Dept. to see if he is familiar with MAGIC funding process and what he can tell us about this specific potential sidewalk construction. We will also ask Corey for his rough estimate of survey and design cost for this section.

-We will put this project in our pool of sidewalks to be considered next for funding, on a priority basis, but it could be several years before construction.

-The sidewalk committee is not in favor of new projects jumping ahead of higher priority projects in queue, but can discuss with Corey whether fitting this into the schedule has any viability within our constraints of fairness. If Boxborough builds the sidewalk before Acton does, Acton's can connect to it when completed.

### **Procedural Matters:**

The November and December 2010 minutes were accepted.

### **Recap of information transmitted by Town Engineering Dept, Corey York:**

#### **Taylor Road:**

Received 2 more Right of Entry permissions. There are 7 remaining. The Committee discussed the Right of Entry forms. It was decided to wait for the snow to melt before doing any follow up door to door work. Our committee co-chairs will ask our selectman liason to discuss with the selectmen the possibilities, if one or more homeowners refuse to allow a sidewalk on their property.

### **Town Meeting**

- A letter is being drafted to notify homeowners on High Street, Summer Street & Martin Street about the potential for a sidewalk and to explain to them about Town Meeting. The sidewalk committee will receive a draft for review.
- Engineering put some placeholders in the Town Warrant regarding sidewalk easements, hoping to get an article before Town Meeting that will authorize the Board of Selectman to acquire easements, if necessary, for the proposed sidewalks.

### **Great Road:**

The design is funded for the Great Road sidewalk between Davis Road and Main Street . Unfortunately, it snowed before the survey crew could start their work. Hopefully, they'll be able to get a jump start in the early spring to get the ball rolling on the design.

### **Sidewalks owed**

Engineering has been requested to compile a list of sidewalks that were/are required by developers, but have never been built. Still being researched and will be reported in the future.

### **Main Street**

The surface treatment has to wait until early spring when the air and pavement temperatures rise above freezing.

### **High Street**

The preliminary design is essentially complete. This layout was done without the use of retaining walls. It was done this way as a starting point for discussion. Engineering will prepare a notice and it mail out with copies of conceptual design to begin discussion with homeowners.

### **Summer Street:**

We were unable to start the survey before the snowfall. Engineering to compile a conceptual design, then send out notices with this sketch.

### **Martin Street**

Engineering to send out a proposed sidewalk plan for Martin Street .

### **Sidewalk Committee - Annual Town Report**

It was noted that a one page annual report from the Sidewalk Committee, (Sidewalk Annual Report 2010 (Final).doc), has been submitted.

### **Sidewalks related trails (Acton Land Stewards)**

We briefly reviewed a compilation (Conservation Trails and Sidewalks.xlsx) of how Acton Conservation lands may be accessed by neighboring roads and sidewalks.

### **20/20 Sidewalk Blog**

Bettina mentioned the existence of the 20/20 Sidewalk Blog, and recapped some of the comments and discussion that have occurred there.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Evans

### ***Open Meeting law requires that the following must be included in the minutes:***

- ✓ Date, place, time and matters discussed.
- ✓ Summaries of discussions
- ✓ List of documents used
- ✓ Decisions made
- ✓ Actions taken
- ✓ Record of all votes (yeas, nays and abstentions).
- ✓ A list of all documents and other exhibits, such as photographs, recordings, maps and presentations used by the body at the open or executive session.

**Future Meetings Planned:** (All at 7pm at the Acton Memorial Library Conference Room) (all on the second Wednesday of the month)

**March 9**

April 13

May 11

June 8

July 13

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14